

60¢

U.K. 25p  
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192

MAR

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

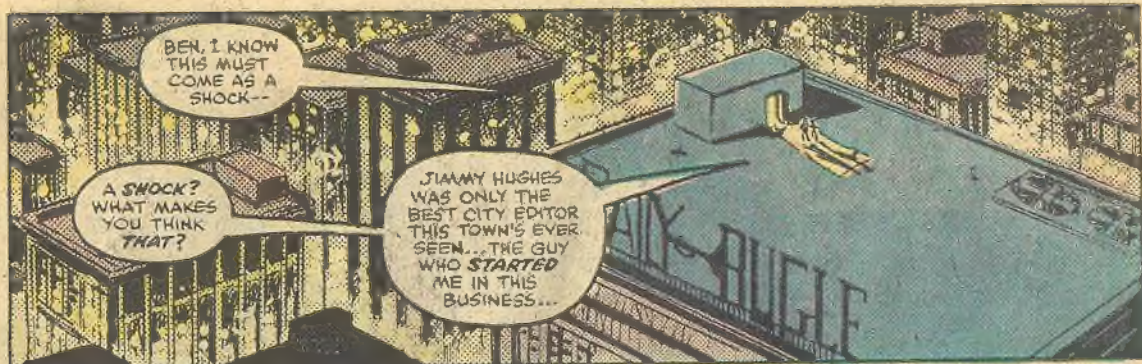


# DAREDEVIL



JOHN

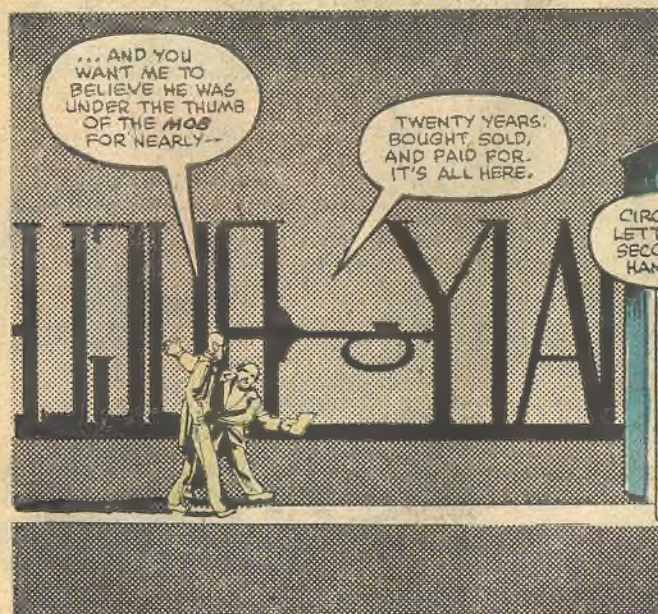




BEN, I KNOW THIS MUST COME AS A SHOCK--

A SHOCK? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

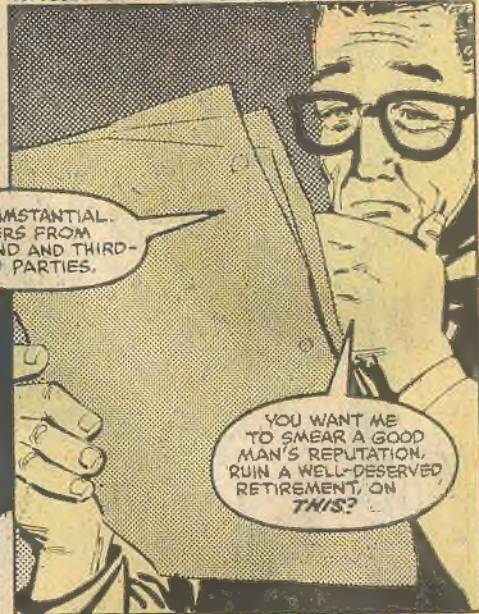
JIMMY HUGHES WAS ONLY THE BEST CITY EDITOR THIS TOWN'S EVER SEEN... THE GUY WHO **STARTED** ME IN THIS BUSINESS...



... AND YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE HE WAS UNDER THE THUMB OF THE **MOS** FOR NEARLY--

TWENTY YEARS. BOUGHT, SOLD, AND PAID FOR. IT'S ALL HERE.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL. LETTERS FROM SECOND AND THIRD-HAND PARTIES.



YOU WANT ME TO SMEAR A GOOD MAN'S REPUTATION, RUIN A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT, ON **THIS?**



SO FIND CORROBORATION. I'D DO IT MYSELF, BEN, BUT...

ONE OF MY KIDS... SHE WAS FOLLOWED HOME FROM SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY. GUY IN A GRAY BUSINESS SUIT, WALKED SIX BLOCKS, FIVE STEPS BEHIND, THEN SPLIT.

I CAN TAKE A HINT, YOU KNOW?

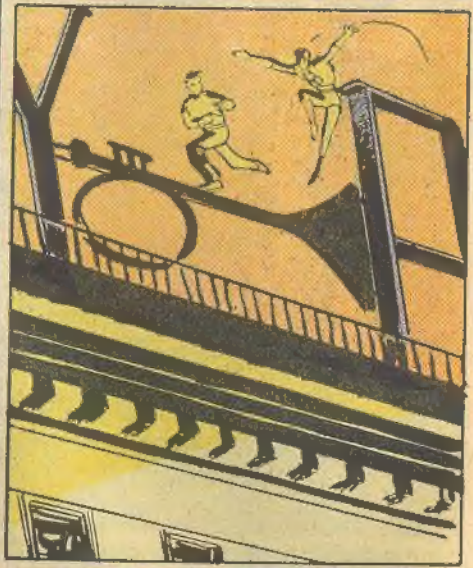


OKAY, OKAY.

LET'S GO PULL YOUR **MOVIES** AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN TURN UP.

BUT A HUNDRED BUCKS SAYS YOU'RE WRONG, MEL.









WELL, THAT WAS FUN.

ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER ONE IS CONSCIOUS OR NOT.

HE IS.



YOU CAN STOP PLAYING POSSUM.

WHY WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL THOSE TWO?

I WASN'T. SO HELP ME. I WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO PUT A SCARE INTO 'EM...

HEARTBEAT DIDN'T JUMP... HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.



IF I WEREN'T BLIND, IF THE RADIATION THAT GAVE ME MY HYPER-SENSSES HADN'T MADE ME A KIND OF HUMAN LIE DETECTOR, I'D HAVE TO TAKE THE WORLD AT FACE VALUE.

I DON'T THINK I'D LIKE THAT.



WHO HIRED YOU?

JUST A GUY. I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME.

TRUTH AGAIN. SONUVAGUN.



HORNHEAD? HOW DID YOU--

I DROPPED INTO YOUR OFFICE, HEARD YOU UP ON THE ROOF, THEN FOUND MR. PERSONALITY HERE WITH THE GUN.

DON'T LOOK GOOD FOR YOUR FRIEND JIMMY, DOES IT?



NO.

CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?



# STAN LEE PRESENTS PROMISES

ALAN BRENNERT KLAUS JANSON DENNY O'NEIL JOE ROSEN JIM SHOOTER  
WRITER PENCILLER/INKER/COLORIST EDITOR LETTERER SUPERVISOR

SHE WAKES TO THE RATTLE OF GARBAGE TRUCKS IN THE STREET BELOW, AND TO AN ACRID SMELL THAT TELLS HER THE NEIGHBOR'S CAT HAS RELIEVED ITSELF IN THE HALL AGAIN.

SHE CAN'T REMEMBER A MORNING THAT HASN'T STARTED THIS WAY... NOT SINCE THAT TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY SHE AND BEN MADE TWO YEARS AGO.

BEN.

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME SHE HAS TO REALLY LOOK AT HIM, THESE DAYS... TEN, FIFTEEN MINUTES EACH MORNING, BEFORE HE WAKES...

...THOUGH SHE CAN REMEMBER A TIME WHEN THEY WOULD SPEND ENTIRE DAYS TOGETHER, HERE, ALONE.

SHE TRIES NOT TO LET IT BOTHER HER, ANY MORE THAN SHE DOES THE APARTMENT, THE NOISE, THE SMELLS...

BUT SOME MORNINGS ARE WORSE THAN OTHERS. AND SOMETIMES, ALL IT TAKES TO MAKE THE ENDURABLE UNENDURABLE...

...IS ONE MORE LITTLE HORROR.

EEEEEE

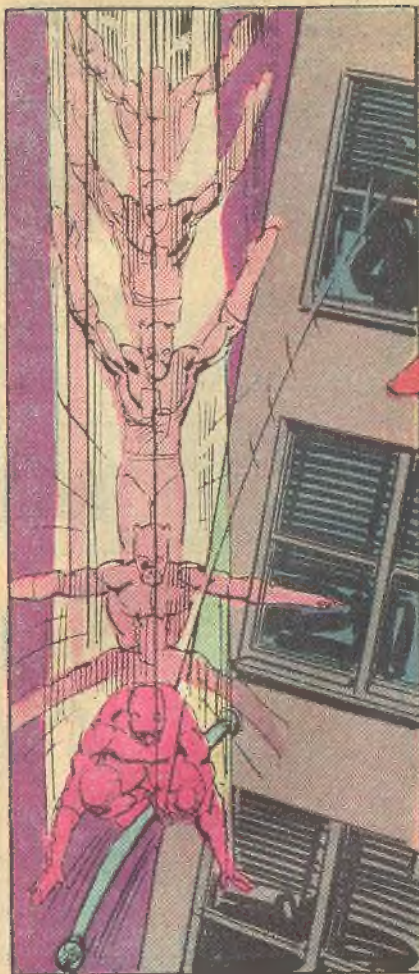
DORIS--  
HONEY--  
WHAT--

FILTHY, DISGUSTING LITTLE--ROACHES... I JUST W-W-WASHED THE SILVERWARE... WHY CAN'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE...!

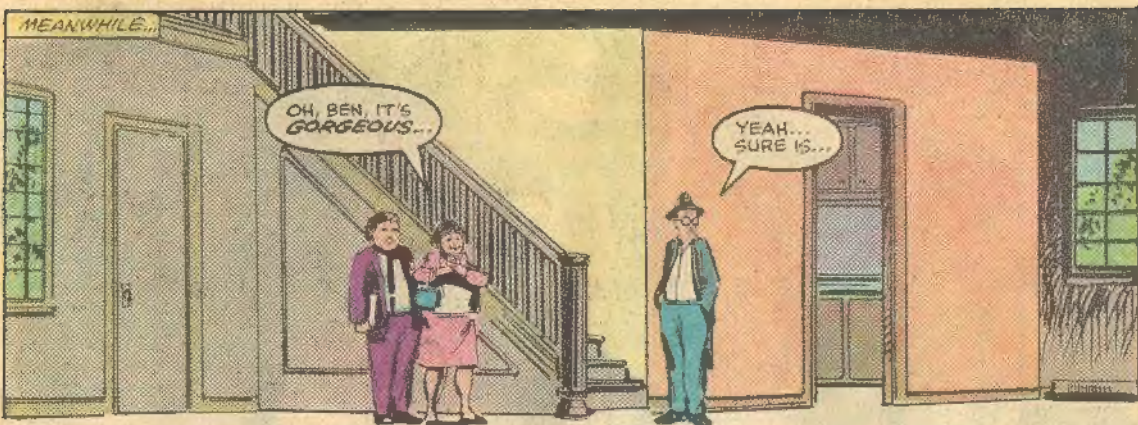








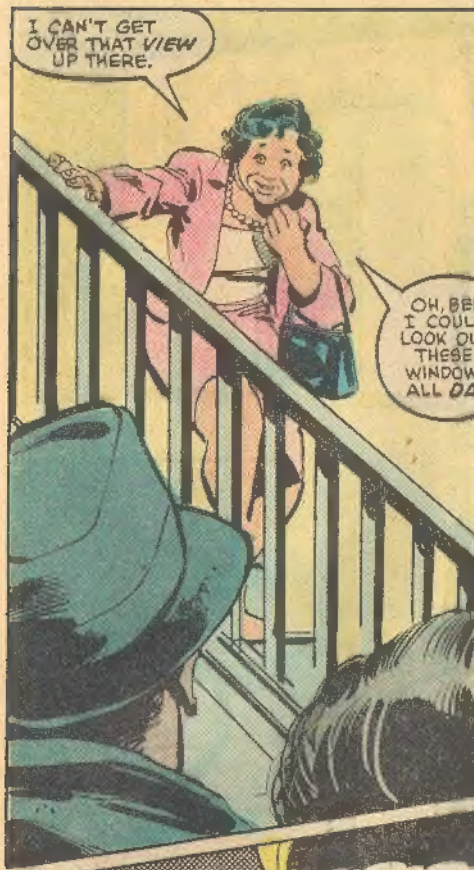




YOUR WIFE SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH IT, MR. URICH.







I CAN'T GET  
OVER THAT VIEW  
UP THERE.

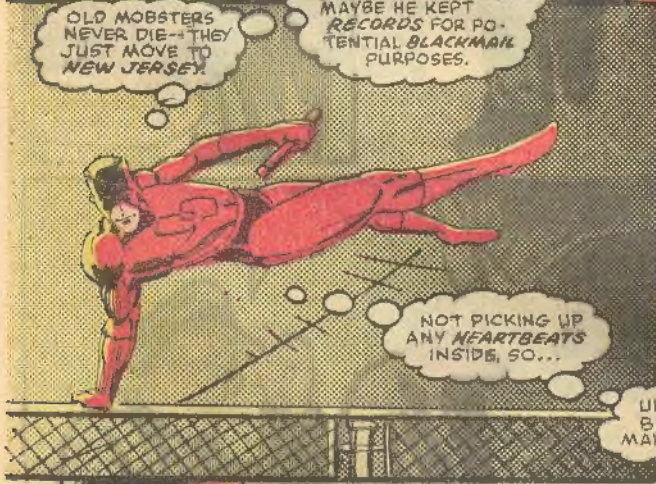
OH, BEN,  
I COULD  
LOOK OUT  
THESE  
WINDOWS  
ALL DAY.



HERE'S  
MY NUMBER  
AT *WORK*,  
MR. FARNUM,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU TALK  
TO YOUR  
BANK...

...AND SEE  
WHAT KIND OF  
*FINANCING* WE  
CAN ARRANGE.

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. --  
SOME HOURS LATER.



OLD MOBSTERS  
NEVER DIE-- THEY  
JUST MOVE TO  
NEW JERSEY.

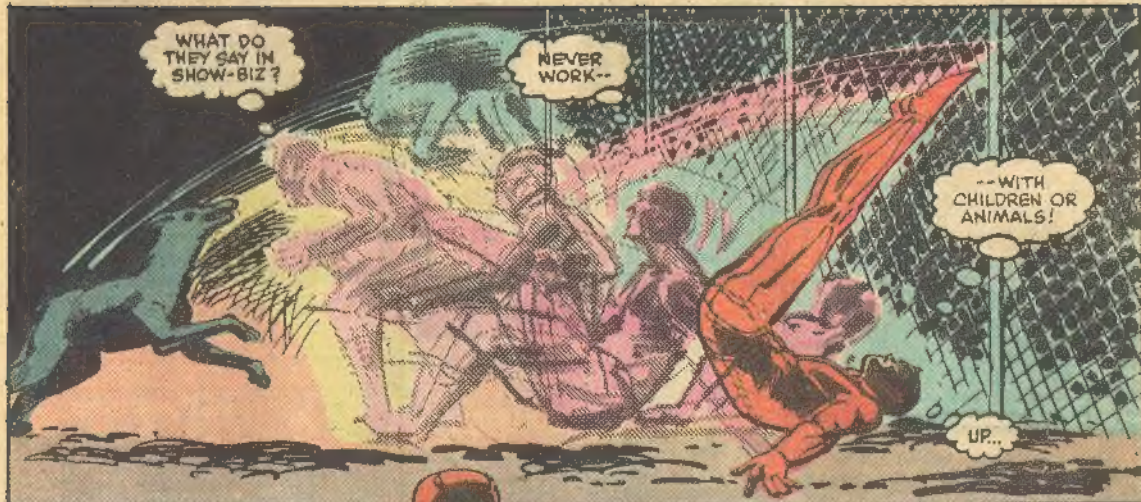
MAX'S FILES SAID  
THIS GUY WAS AN  
ACCOUNTANT FOR THE  
COSA NOSTRA IN THE  
60S... WITH ANY LUCK  
MAYBE HE KEPT  
RECORDS FOR PO-  
TENTIAL *BLACKMAIL*  
PURPOSES.

NOT PICKING UP  
ANY *HEARTBEATS*  
INSIDE, SO...

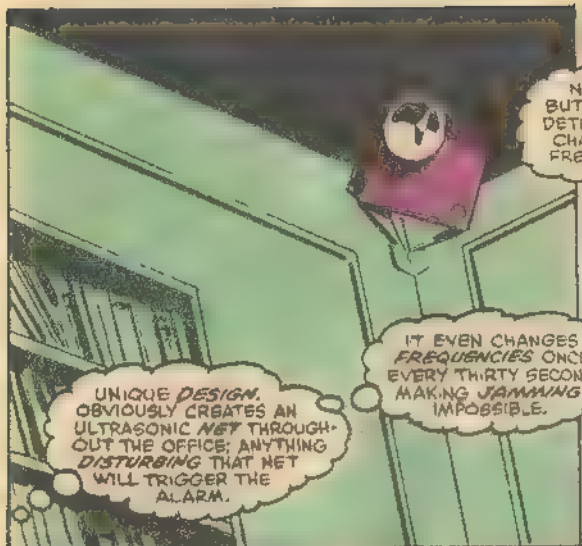
UH-OH--  
BETTER  
MAKE THAT...

...NO *HUMAN*  
HEARTBEATS...









NO ONE  
BUT I COULD  
DETECT THAT  
CHANGE IN  
FREQUENCIES...

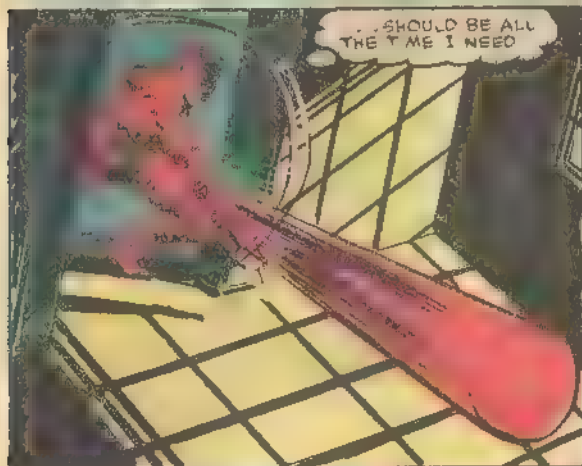
IT EVEN CHANGES  
FREQUENCIES ONCE  
EVERY THIRTY SECONDS,  
MAKING JAMMING  
IMPOSSIBLE.

UNIQUE DESIGN.  
OBVIOUSLY CREATES AN  
ULTRASONIC NET THROUGH-  
OUT THE OFFICE; ANYTHING  
DISTURBING THAT NET  
WILL TRIGGER THE  
ALARM.



OR KNOW THAT  
BETWEEN THEM IS SOME  
TWO SECONDS OF DEAD  
AIR, AS THE PULSE IS  
REMODULATED.

TWO  
SECONDS.



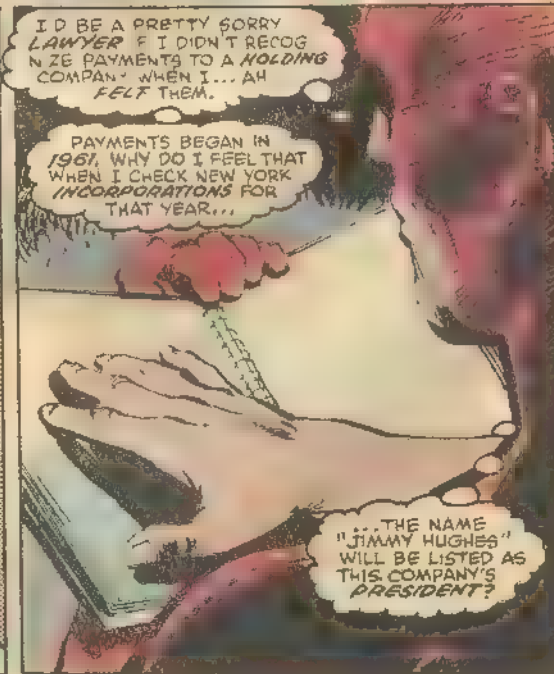
... SHOULD BE ALL  
THE TIME I NEED



...AND THERE'S THE  
LAST TUMBLER, FALLING  
OBLINGLY INTO PLACE.

NO SUCH  
LUCK

FOR BEN'S  
SAKE I HOPE  
THIS HAS ALL  
BEEN JUST A  
WASTE OF TIME,  
AND HIS FRIEND  
IS --



I'D BE A PRETTY SORRY  
LAWYER IF I DIDN'T RECOG-  
NIZE PAYMENTS TO A HOLDING  
COMPANY WHEN I... AH  
FELT THEM.

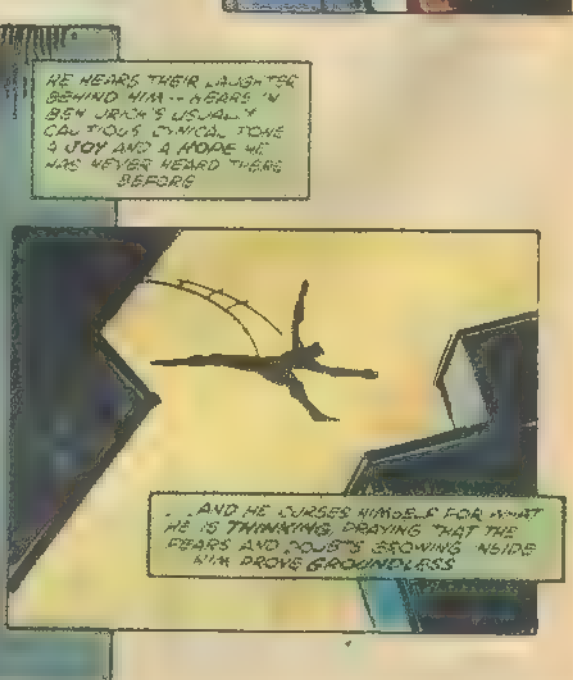
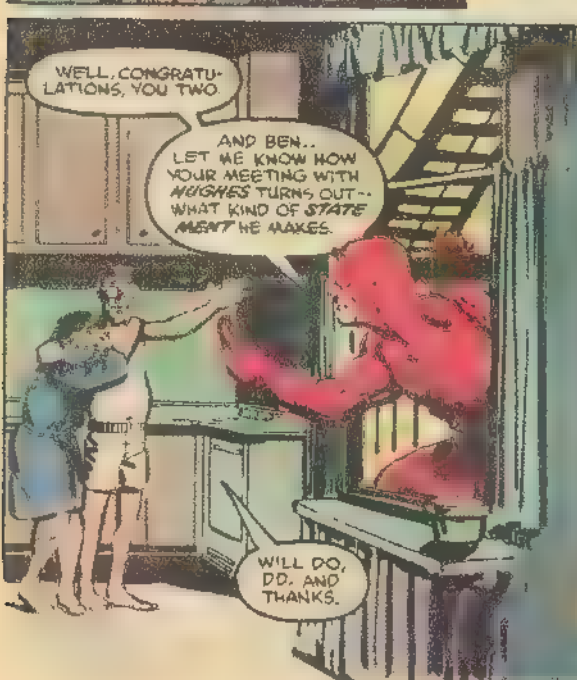
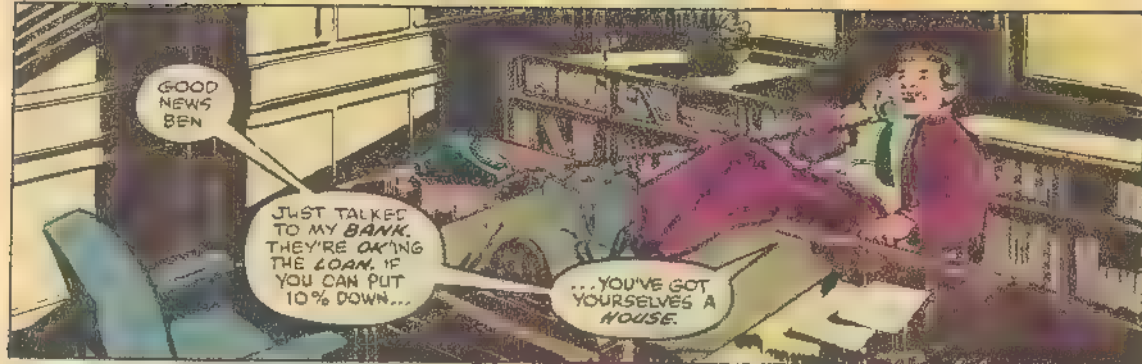
PAYMENTS BEGAN IN  
1961. WHY DO I FEEL THAT  
WHEN I CHECK NEW YORK  
INCORPORATIONS FOR  
THAT YEAR...

...THE NAME  
"JIMMY HUGHES"  
WILL BE LISTED AS  
THIS COMPANY'S  
PRESIDENT?













"5 AN HOUR'S RIDE FROM MANHATTAN TO GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND... AND IN THAT TIME BEN JR CAN THINK OF A THOUSAND WAYS TO DOUBLE HIS ACQUISITION AND DOARDS JUST AS MANY.

BEN THINKS OF THE URBAN LEW TRACT HOME WHICH WILL SOON BE HIS DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL. AND WHEN THE TRAIN & HALL Y ARRIVES...

HE HAS A BRIEF SUDDEN URGE TO GET BACK ON, AND RETURN TO NEW YORK.



BY GOD BEN IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, SCOTCH?

UH NO THANKS, JIMMY

THIS ISN'T REALLY A SOCIAL CALL.



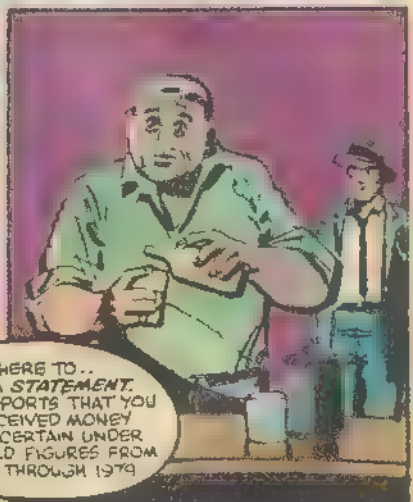
AH, I GET IT. SEEKING THE OLD MAN'S ADVICE ON A STORY.

NICE TO KNOW I'M NOT ENTIRELY FOR--



NO JIMMY, THAT'S NOT IT

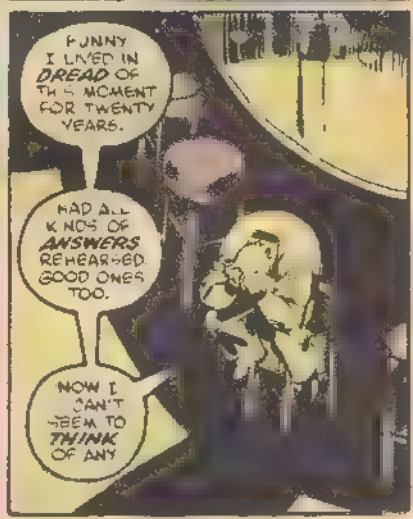
I'M HERE TO... GET A STATEMENT ON REPORTS THAT YOU ... RECEIVED MONEY FROM CERTAIN UNDER WORLD FIGURES FROM 1961 THROUGH 1979



BEN THAT'S

I MEAN IT'S JUST

ABSOLUTELY NOT

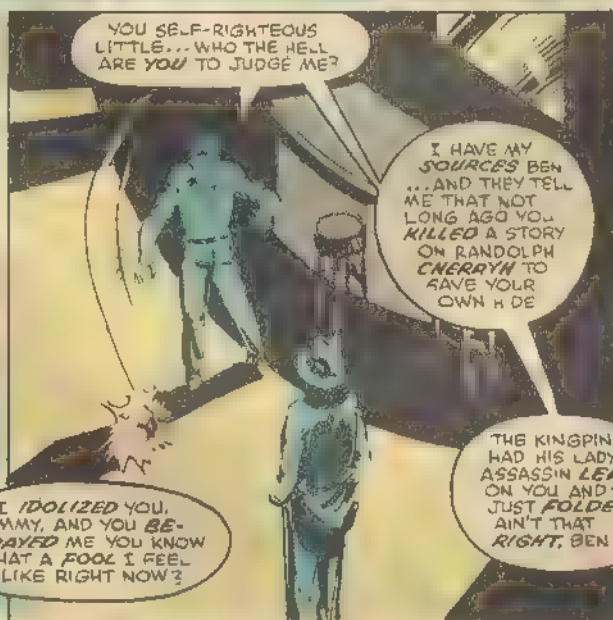
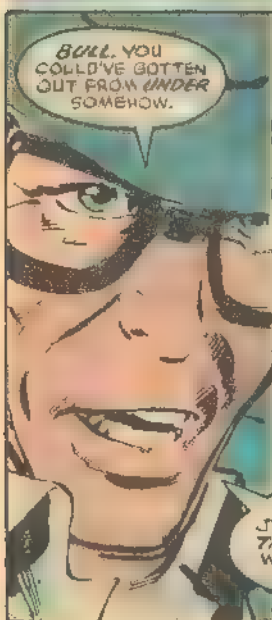
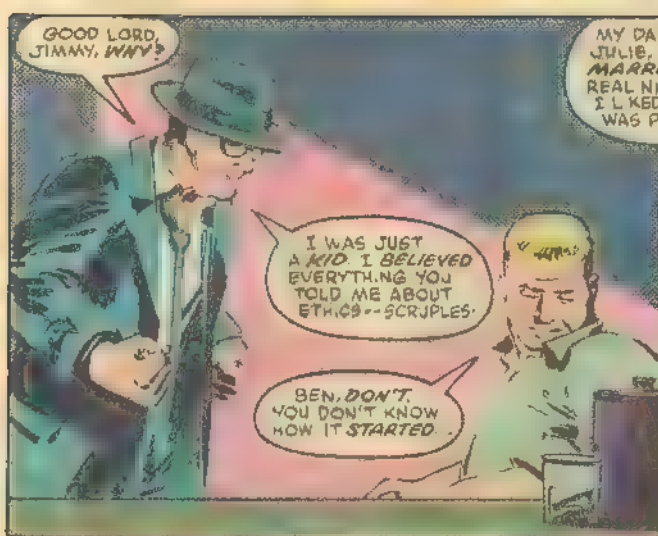


FUNNY I LIVED IN DREAD OF THIS MOMENT FOR TWENTY YEARS.

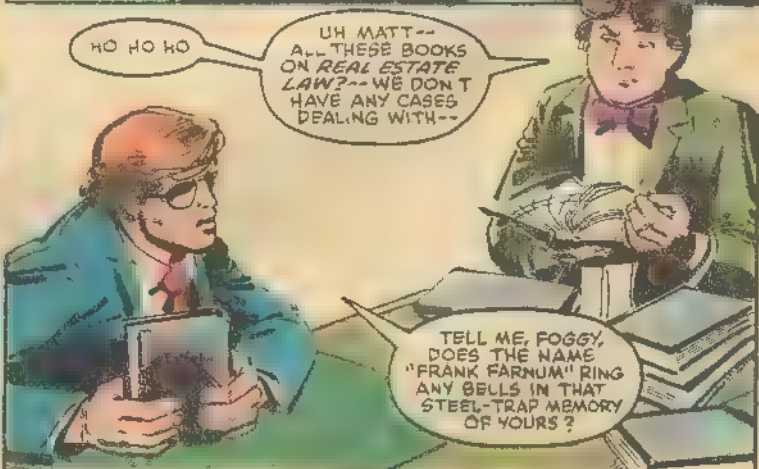
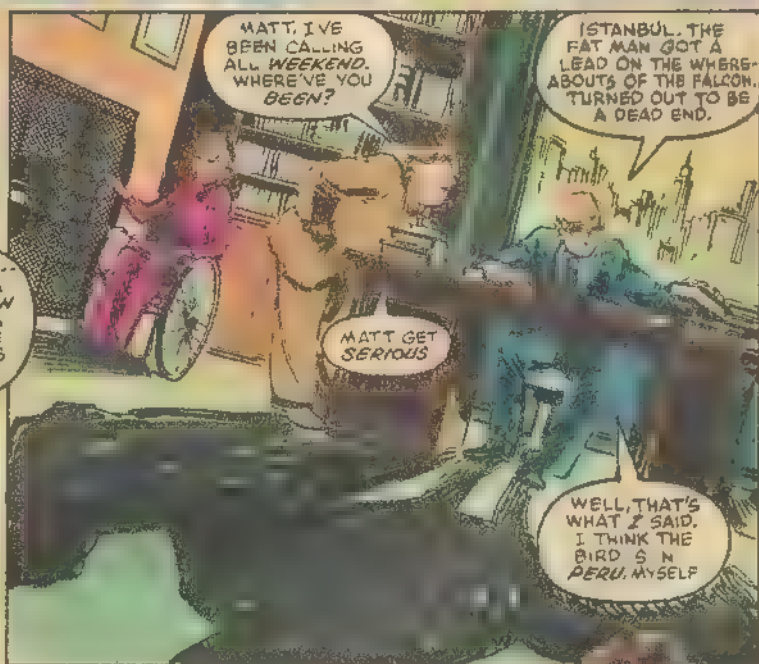
HAD ALL KINDS OF ANSWERS REHEARSED. GOOD ONES TOO.

NOW I CAN'T SEEM TO THINK OF ANY

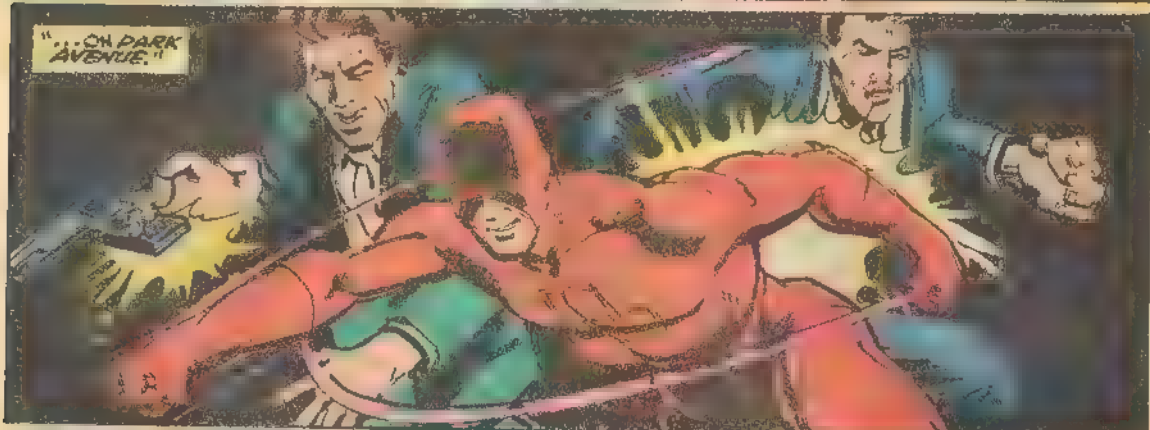
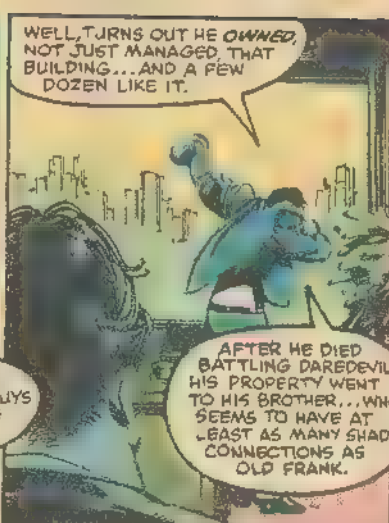
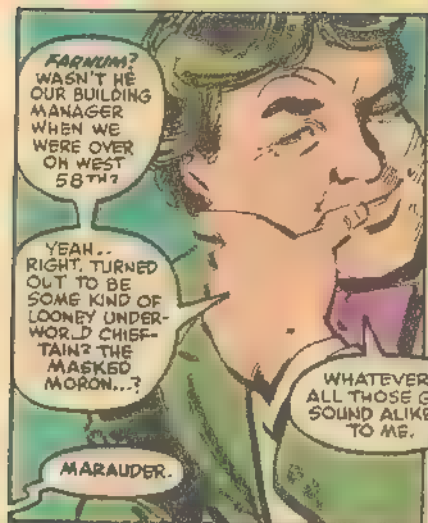




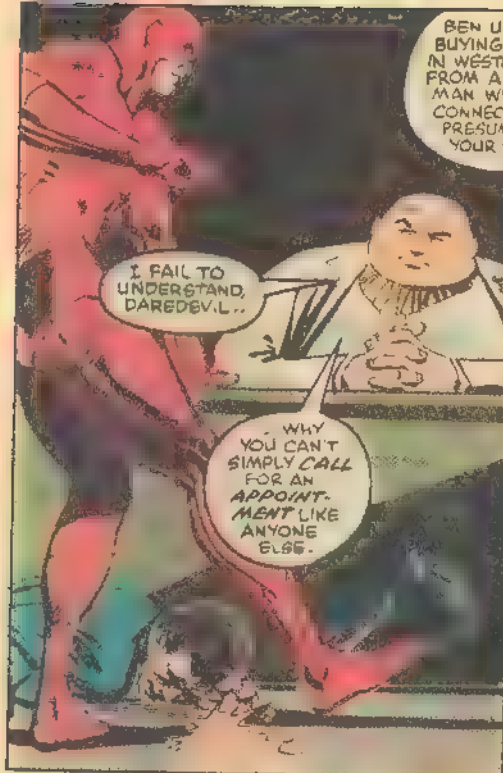








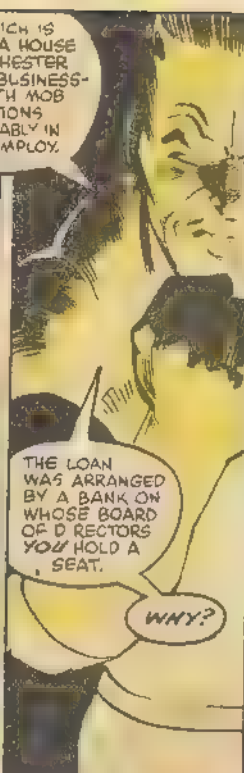




I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND, DAREDEVIL...

WHY YOU CAN'T SIMPLY CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT LIKE ANYONE ELSE.

BEN URICH IS BUYING A HOUSE IN WESTCHESTER FROM A BUSINESSMAN WITH MOB CONNECTIONS PRESUMABLY IN YOUR EMPLOY.



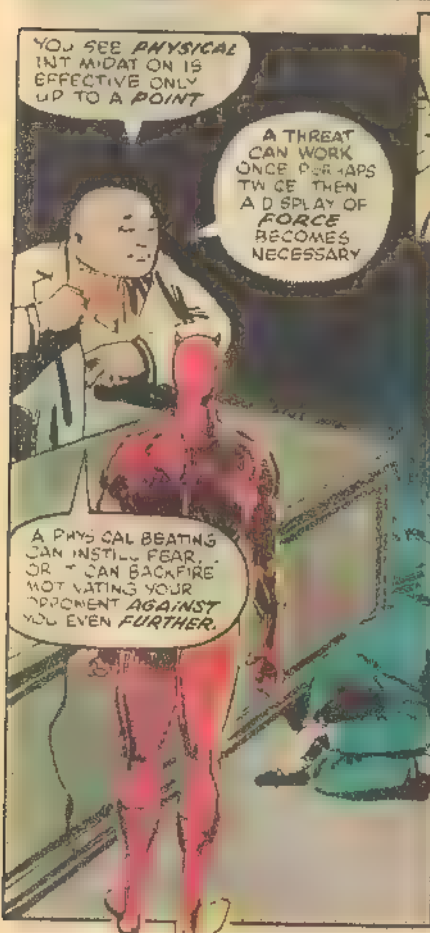
THE LOAN WAS ARRANGED BY A BANK ON WHOSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS YOU HOLD A SEAT.

WHY?



I SHOULD THINK THAT WOULD BE OBVIOUS.

MR URICH HAS PROVEN QUITE BOTHERSOME IN RECENT MONTHS. I AM SIMPLY PROVIDING MYSELF WITH SOME INSURANCE.



YOU SEE *PHYSICAL* INTimidation IS EFFECTIVE ONLY UP TO A POINT

A THREAT CAN WORK ONCE PERAPS TWICE THEN A DISPLAY OF *FORCE* BECOMES NECESSARY

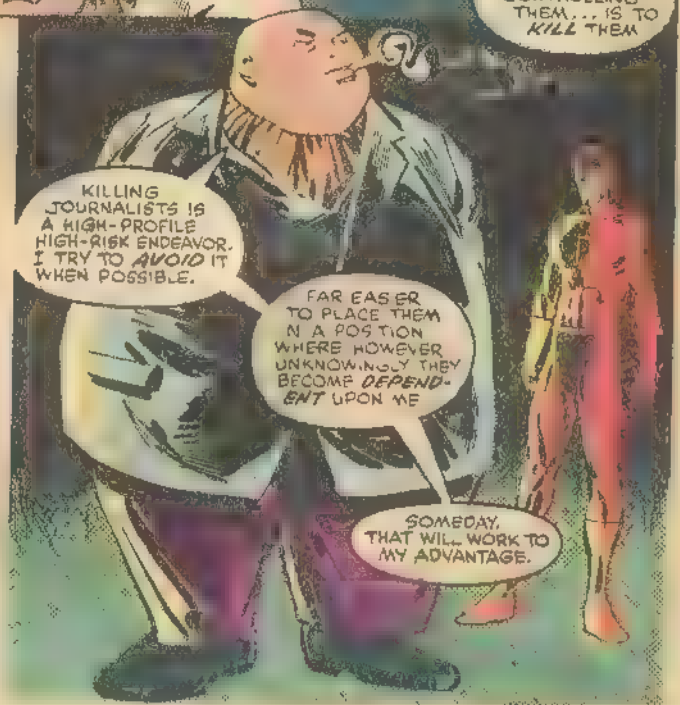
A PHYSICAL BEATING CAN INSTILL FEAR, OR I CAN BACKFIRE NOT VATING YOUR OPPOSITION AGAINST YOU EVEN *FURTHER*.



SOME MEN CAN BE BEATEN... CRIPPLED... EVEN BLINDED... AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT.

HURT THEIR *FAMILIES*. AND THEY WILL FIGHT EVEN *MORE*.

IN THE END THE ONLY *FOOL-PROOF* WAY OF CONTROLLING THEM... IS TO *KILL* THEM

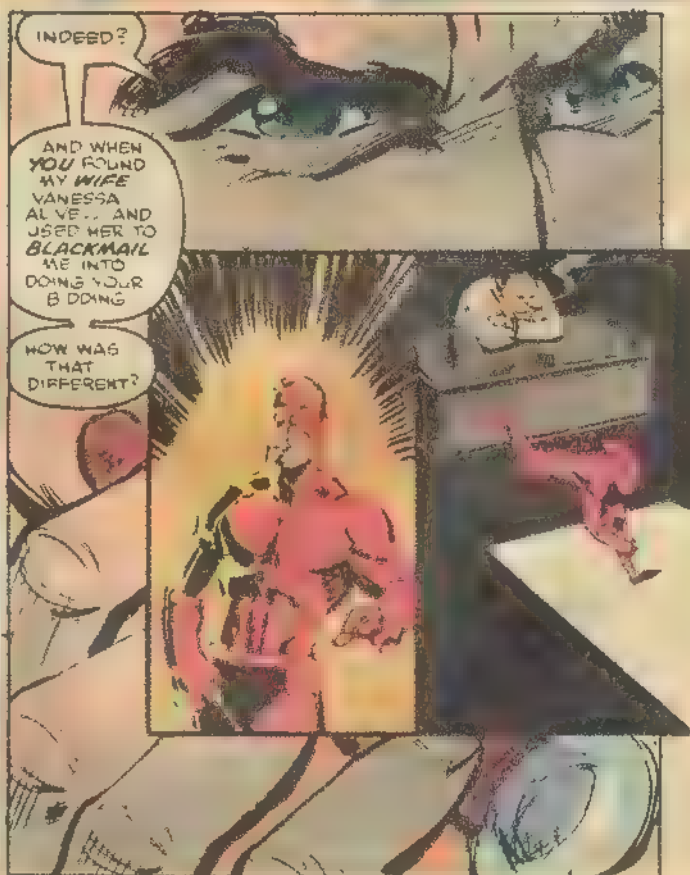


KILLING JOURNALISTS IS A HIGH-PROFILE HIGH-RISK ENDEAVOR. I TRY TO *AVOID* IT WHEN POSSIBLE.

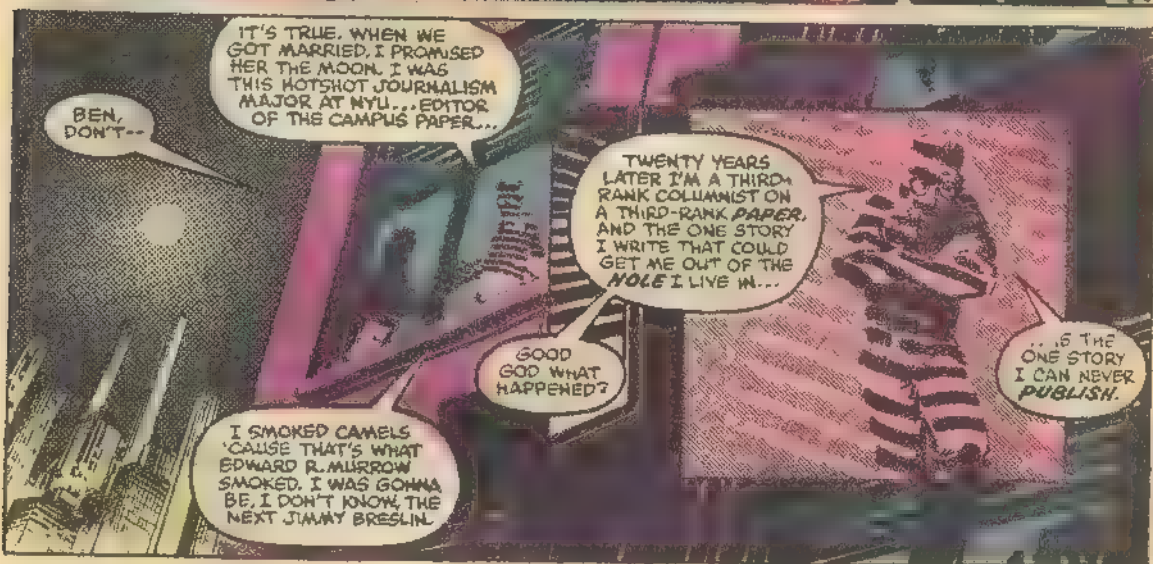
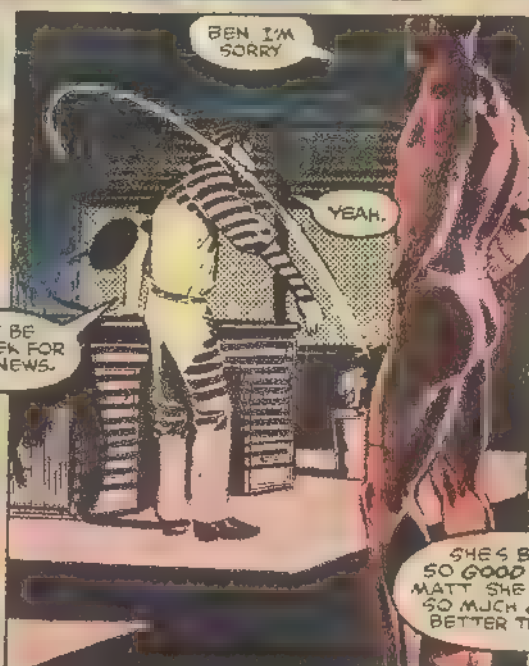
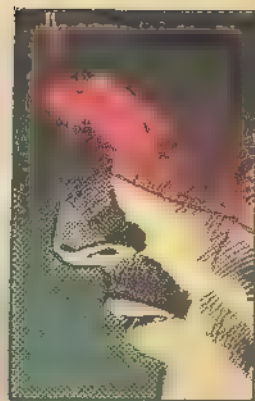
FAR EASIER TO PLACE THEM IN A POSITION WHERE HOWEVER UNKNOWINGLY THEY BECOME *DEPENDENT* UPON ME

SOMEDAY, THAT WILL WORK TO MY *ADVANTAGE*.







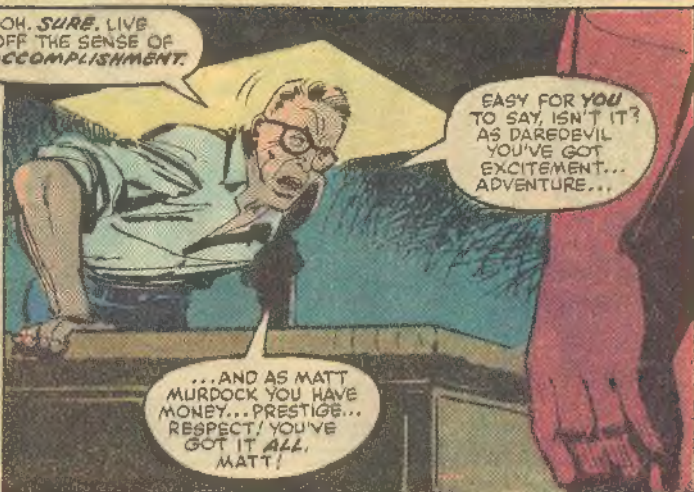






MAYBE NOT. BUT HOW MANY OTHER REPORTERS COULD HAVE EVEN **DISCOVERED** DAREDEVIL'S REAL IDENTITY, BEN?

OH, **SURE**. LIVE OFF THE SENSE OF **ACCOMPLISHMENT**.



EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, ISN'T IT? AS DAREDEVIL YOU'VE GOT EXCITEMENT... ADVENTURE...

...AND AS MATT MURDOCK YOU HAVE MONEY... PRESTIGE... RESPECT! YOU'VE GOT IT **ALL**, MATT!



ALL...? YOU SELF-PITYING **IDIOT**.

I'M STANDING HERE IN THE **DARK**, BEN. I CAN HEAR YOUR **HEART BEAT**, BUT I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOUR **FACE** LOOKS LIKE, I CAN RUN ACROSS ROOFTOPS, BUT I'LL NEVER SEE THE **STARS**.

I WOULDN'T HAVE **CHOSEN** THIS LIFE... BUT I'VE GROWN TO **LIKE** IT. WE ALL LEARN TO LIVE WITH WHAT WE'VE **GOT**.



LIVE WITH WHAT YOU'VE **GOT**. SURE, BUT WHAT IN GOD'S NAME HAVE I **GOT**?

I'M SORRY. I HAD NO RIGHT TO TALK TO YOU LIKE THAT.

MORE THAN I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND, BEN.



SOMETIMES I THINK ABOUT HEATHER... OR KAREN... OR ELEKTRA...

...AND I WONDER IF IT'S NOT ALL JUST A **BAD JOKE**. IF IT'S REALLY **POSSIBLE** TO FIND ANYONE IN THIS SCREWED-UP WORLD... IF I SHOULDN'T JUST **GIVE UP**.



THEN I THINK OF YOU, AND DORIS... AND HOW YOU'VE STAYED TOGETHER, SOMEHOW, **DESPITE** THE ODDS...

...AND IT GIVES ME A LITTLE BIT OF **HOPE**, BEN. IT REALLY DOES.

YOU MAKE ME **ASHAMED**, MATT.

...AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T **DISAPPOINT** HER, ONE MORE TIME.

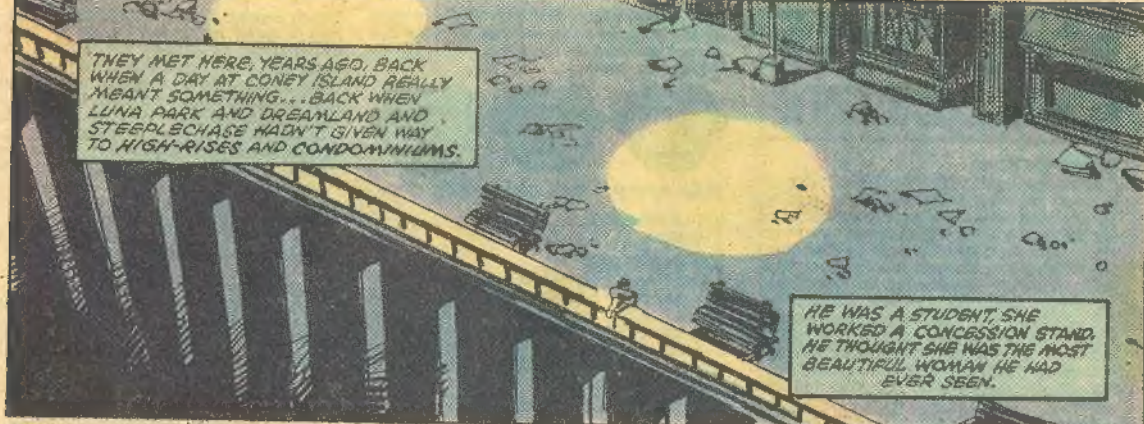
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M A LUCKY MAN. DORIS MEANS EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD TO ME...



I'M GOING TO BUY THE HOUSE, MATT. I'VE **GOT** TO.


I'M SORRY.






THEY MET HERE, YEARS AGO, BACK WHEN A DAY AT CONEY ISLAND REALLY MEANT SOMETHING... BACK WHEN LUNA PARK AND DREAMLAND AND STEEPLCHASE HADN'T GIVEN WAY TO HIGH-RISES AND CONDOMINIUMS.

HE WAS A STUDENT, SHE WORKED A CONCESSION STAND. HE THOUGHT SHE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HE HAD EVER SEEN.




HE LOVED HER THEN, AND HE LOVES HER NOW.



IT'S JUST EVERYTHING ELSE THAT'S CHANGED.



BEN?



OH, NO, HE... HE TOLD YOU...

NO, I MADE HIM TELL ME.

HE CAME LOOKING FOR YOU AT HOME, WE WAITED FOR HOURS, THEN DROVE EVERYWHERE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE.

SOMEHOW, HE MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU WERE IN THIS HUGE PARK.





BEN, WE CAN'T TAKE THAT HOUSE. YOU KNOW THAT.

NO, HONEY. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN AGAIN. I CAN'T.

BESIDES...

WHAT'S ONE MORE COP-OUT MORE OR--

...WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE, I'VE ALREADY SOLD OUT. I SPIKED THE CHERRYH STORY... JUST TO SAVE MY OWN SKIN.



YOU LISTEN TO ME, BEN URICH.



STOP LETTING THAT EAT AT YOU. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAVING YOUR LIFE...

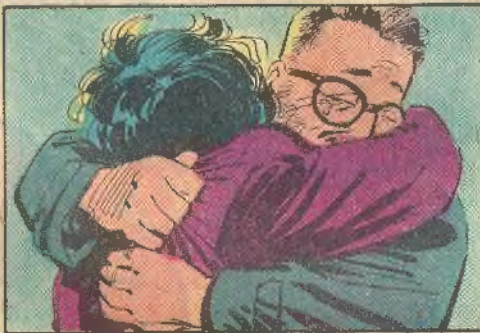
...AND HANDING THAT LIFE OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE, LIKE JIMMY DID. SO YOU'RE NOT PERFECT. SO WHAT, DID I EVER ASK YOU TO BE PERFECT?



THE MAN I MET HERE TWENTY YEARS AGO WASN'T PERFECT, EITHER... BUT HE HAD A HEART, AND A CONSCIENCE, AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF THAT.

IF THAT CHANGES, I...

...I DON'T KNOW IF I'D LOVE HIM SO MUCH ANYMORE.



WE'LL FIND ANOTHER PLACE, HONEY. I PROMISE.

I BELIEVE YOU, BEN.

YOU'VE KEPT EVERY PROMISE YOU EVER MADE ME...



...EVERY ONE THAT MATTERED...

END





DAREDEVIL



#COMICS  
DAREDEVIL

